

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03
NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15
SP-02 INT-05 FEA-01 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07
NEA-10 HUD-01 /142 W
-----082105Z 116489 /70

R 081500Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8059
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, CSCE, SENV

SUBJECT: ECE - WESTERN CAUCUS WORKING LEVEL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 130044; (B) GENEVA 4363

1. WORKING LEVEL MEETING OF ECE WESTERN CAUCUS HELD 7 JUNE 1977
TO DISCUSS FOLLOW-UP TO 32ND SESSION DECISION RE POSSIBLE
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN LIGHT OF
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S LETTER OF 9 MAY 1977 AND HIS STATEMENT
AT INFORMAL LUNCHEON MEETING 26 MAY 1977.

2. DISCUSSION REVEALED COMPLETE AGREEMENT THAT PROCESS OVER
NEXT YEAR WAS EXPLORATORY (NOT PREPARATORY) AND THAT REPLIES
BY GOVERNMENTS TO STANOVNIK'S LETTER SHOULD GIVE NO INDICATION
THAT DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO HOLD HIGH LEVEL MEETING. REPS
STRESSED OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED TOPICS AGAINST CRITERIA
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SET FORTH IN RES. I(XXXII). UK ASSERTED THAT MOST IMPORTANT
CRITERIA WAS WHETHER HIGH LEVEL MEETING HELD PROMISE OF
IMPORTANT DECISIONS AND THAT DECISION SHOULD BE BASED ON
WHAT TOPICS ARE THEN READY, NOT WHAT MIGHT BE READY IN
FUTURE.

3. ONLY NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH AND US REPS WERE ABLE TO

STATE THAT REPLIES WERE BEING PREPARED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO STANOVNIK MAY 5 LETTER. UK ANNOUNCED FOR EC-9 THAT EC WAS "PREDISPOSED" TO REPLY BUT THAT FINAL DECISION NOT YET TAKEN. NO SENTIMENTS AGAINST REPLY WERE EXPRESSED, HOWEVER, NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED THAT GOVERNMENTS REQUEST IN THEIR REPLIES THAT THEY BE CIRCULATED TO OTHER ECE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THIS SUGGESTION HAD MERIT. (WE UNDERSTAND REPLIES TO MAY 9 STANOVNIK LETTER WILL NOT BE CIRCULATED UNLESS GOVERNMENTS SO REQUEST.)

4. REPS AGREED THAT STANOVNIK IN MAY 26 LIST OF POSSIBLE TOPICS HAD INCLUDED EVERYTHING HE COULD THINK OF AND THAT LIST EMERGING FROM SEPTEMBER SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISERS MEETING WOULD BE MUCH SMALLER. SEVERAL REPS SAW TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION AS ONLY TOPIC SUITABLE FOR HIGH LEVEL MEETING, WITH ONLY FINLAND SUGGESTING THAT THERE MIGHT BE OTHERS (THE FOUR LISTED IN ITS LETTER OF 18 MARCH 1977 TO STANOVNIK, SEE GENEVA 2088). UK SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT INCLUDE NEGATIVE LIST AS WELL AS POSITIVE LIST IN THEIR LETTERS TO STANOVNIK IN ORDER TO NARROW FIELD TO ONE TOPIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS RESISTED BY DUTCH, WHO THOUGHT ALL PROPOSALS SHOULD BE EXAMINED AGAINST CRITERIA. NORWEGIANS ALSO THOUGHT EXAMINATION OF MORE THAN ONE TOPIC WAS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO KEEP SOVIET INTEREST IN AIR POLLUTION TOPIC AND THAT NEGATIVE LIST COULD COME OUT OF SEPTEMBER MEETING.

5. CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS SHOWN IN QUESTION OF CREATION
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OF TASK FORCES TO EXAMINE PROPOSED TOPICS AFTER SEPTEMBER MEETING. AGAIN, DIVISION EMERGED BETWEEN NORWAY, WHICH FAVORED TASK FORCES AS MOST FEASIBLE WAY FOR GOVERNMENTS TO ASSIST STANOVNIK IN HIS ANALYSIS OF TOPICS, AND UK, WHICH FEARED THAT TASK FORCES WOULD BE LOADED WITH ADVOCATES OF RESPECTIVE TOPICS. SEVERAL OTHERS STRESSED NEED TO AVOID PROLIFERATION OF TASK FORCES.

6. CANADA AND FRG INQUIRED CONCERNING LINK BETWEEN POSSIBLE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT AND CONTINUING WORK ON MONITORING OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION. NORWAY RESPONDED THAT WHILE WORK ON MONITORING PROGRAM SHOULD PROCEED, MONITORING COULD ALSO BE DEALT WITH A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ALONG WITH STEPS IN TO REDUCE EMISSIONS. US REP ADVISED THAT US LETTER TO STANOVNIK WOULD EMPHASIZE CONTINUING WORK ON MONITORING PROGRAM AND THAT CONSIDERATION ALSO BEING GIVEN TO NEW INITIATIVES SUCH AS ACTIVITY RELATED TO UNEP/GEMS. NORWAY HOPED US WOULD NOT FORGET ITS SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED ECE WORK ON EMISSION CONTROLS.

7. ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE OR VIEWS WHICH DEPARTMENT
MAY PROVIDE PRIOR TO FULL MEETING OF
WESTERN CAUCUS ON JUNE 23 WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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